

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending.

The Specification was objected to because of informalities. In response, the Specification is amended as noted above to address that objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

The drawings were objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner states that “the ‘dividing means’ (claim 1) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).” In response, claim 1 is amended to address that objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings on that basis.

Claim 3 was objected to because of informalities. In response, claim 3 is amended to overcome that objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 3 on that basis.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that “claim 1 is vague and indefinite in that it is not clear what the ‘dividing means . . .’ encompasses to the extent that it is not clear exactly what structure shown in Figs. 1-5 allows for formation of the divide.” In response, claim 1 is amended to address that rejection. The rejection of claim 2 is moot because the claim is canceled by the present response as noted above. Claim 3 was withdrawn from further consideration as noted above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is overcome, and request the withdrawal of that rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the admitted prior art (e.g., Fig. 7 of the present application) in view of Otsuki et al. (JP 04-360769, herein “Otsuki”). The rejection of claim 2 is moot because the claim is canceled by the present response as noted above. Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection on claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

base material remainder discharging means for discharging the divided base material remainders in directions away from each other and in a thickness direction of the member at a predetermined angle to the discharging direction of the cut-out member.

The Examiner acknowledges that the admitted prior art does not teach or suggest the base material remainder discharging means. Then, the Examiner combines Otsuki with the admitted prior art to supplement their deficiency.

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from the bottom of the front edge of the member 6A. Accordingly, unlike the present invention recited in amended claim 1, the base material remainders are not effectively and efficiently separated from the member 6A. Therefore, Otsuki does not teach or suggest that “base material remainder discharging means for discharging the divided base material remainders in directions away from each other and in a thickness direction of the member at a predetermined angle to the discharging direction of the cut-out member,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, even if the teachings of the admitted prior art and Otsuki are combined, the combined teachings of the cited references do not render obvious the features recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of amended claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom based on the cited references, either taken individually or in combination.

**CONCLUSION**

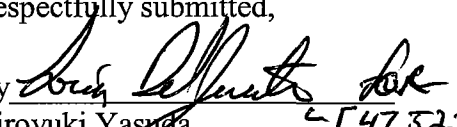
In view of the above amendments, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Hiroyuki Yasuda

Registration No.: 55,751

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant